

REMARKS

Claims 6-22 were examined in the Final Office Action mailed October 6, 2006, and were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph as indefinite as (a) confusing with few relationships between the elements and dataflow defined and (b) not claiming the control or mode signal of the multiplexers.

An Amendment and Response was filed October 18, 2006, in which claims were amended by addition of input and output connections, but the multiplexer mode signal issue was rebutted.

In an Advisory Action mailed October 24, 2006, it was indicated that the Amendments would not be entered, as deemed not sufficient to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying issues for appeal. In the Continuation Section, the Examiner only discussed the multiplexer control signal related rejection, and so it appears that the proposed claim amendments relating to inputs and outputs was otherwise sufficient.

The claims have now been amended to (a) reference multiplexer control nodes, in addition to (b) clarifying the inputs and outputs previously submitted for amendment, as requested by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the remarks below.

A. § 112, 2nd Paragraph Rejection of Claims 6-22 is Addressed.

Claims 6 and 13 are rejected as having confusing data flow and omitting structural cooperative relationships. Again, the assertion that claim 6 “is a collection of elements with a few relationships between a few of the elements” is respectfully traversed. In claims 6 and 13 it is respectfully submitted that all of the claimed elements are coupled to each other as required. To address the assertion that it is unclear how data flows through the circuit, claims 6 and 13 have been further amended. Consistent with the circuits shown in FIGS. 4 and 5, claims 6 and 13 now recite inputs and outputs through which the previously recited “coupled” connections are achieved. Claims 6 and 13 now recite that a subsequent element in the claim is coupled to the output of a previous element in the claim, or to an input of an element in correspondence with FIGS. 4 and 5.

With respect to the outstanding issue regarding “the connections of the mode control and the multiplexer”, Applicant respectfully maintains its position that the operational details and structures of multiplexers are inherent and known and, further may be inferred from FIGS. 4 and 5 and the accompanying specification text. It is still believed that recitations about the mode signal are believed just not needed in the present case.

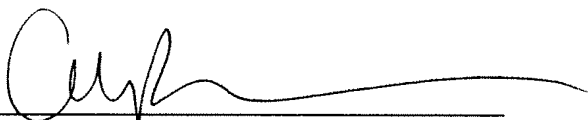
However, in the cooperative spirit, and as would be clear to a person of ordinary skill in the art that a “control signal” is received by, for example, “a control node” in a multiplexer, independent claim 6 has been amended to also recite how the shift/capture control signal is received “at a control node of each of the first and second multiplexers”, the mode control signal is received “at a control node of the second multiplexer circuit”, and the mode control signal is received “at a control node of the second multiplexer circuit.” Similarly, claim 13 has been amended to recite how the mode control signal is received “at a control node of the second multiplexer circuit.” No new matter is added thereby.

In view of the above amendments to claims 6 and 13, a person of ordinary skill in the art will understand data flow through the circuit as claimed, addressing any possible indefiniteness, with the § 112, 2nd paragraph rejection of dependent claims 7-12 and 14-22 also addressed thereby. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6-22 is therefore respectfully requested.

B. Conclusion.

In view of the above amendments, claims 6-22 are in form for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. Should any issues remain, the Examiner is kindly asked to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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